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# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



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#### **SOUTHEAST ALASKA COMMERCIAL POT SHRIMP FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT**

Sitka . . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game today announced the following information concerning the 2013/2014 Southeast Alaska commercial pot shrimp fishery:

##### 2013/2014 Fishing Season and Fishing Periods

All fishing districts and areas will open at 8:00 a.m., Tuesday, October 1, 2013, and will close at 4:00 p.m., Friday, February 28, 2014, unless closed earlier by emergency order [5 AAC 31.110]. Areas will close when guideline harvest levels (GHLs) have been reached or are expected to be reached by the time of the closure. Shrimp fishing districts or areas where the GHLs have not been reached by February 28, 2014, may be reopened on May 15, 2014, for a summer season. The summer pot shrimp fishing season will close by regulation on July 31, 2014.

The department will issue weekly news releases, usually on Thursday afternoons, which will update fishermen on the progress of the fishery.

Pot shrimp fishermen should be aware that fishing time in certain districts, or areas, may be very limited and may close on short notice, depending on harvest rates and effort levels. Fishermen should also be aware that entire areas with distinct GHLs or portions of these areas may close if the department has specific conservation concerns. If harvest rates are low or sharply declining as the season progresses, these areas may be closed before the GHL has been reached in order to prevent excessive harvests in these areas.

Operation of shrimp fishing gear may only occur during daily fishing periods from 8:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. [5 AAC 31.124. (e)(5)]. This means that pots may only be hauled or deployed during this eight-hour period each day.

The following provides an overview of regulations and general information affecting the management of the 2013/2014 commercial pot shrimp fishery.

##### Vessel Registration and Pot Shrimp Identification Tags

All vessels pot shrimp fishing must be registered with the department prior to fishing. Registration is available at any of the Southeast Alaska area offices Monday through Friday during normal working hours. During the 2013/2014 season, pot tags will not be required. Catcher-processors willing to

participate in the voluntary logbook program should plan to provide the department with their specific shrimp size category information at the time of registration.

#### Guideline Harvest Levels (GHL) for the 2013/2014 Season

The GHLs or preseason target harvest amounts in pounds whole weight for each fishing district or area are as follows:

<b>District</b>	<b>2012/2013 Closure Date</b>	<b>Days Open in 2012/2013</b>	<b>10-year Average Harvest</b>	<b>2012/2013 Harvest</b>	<b>2013/2014 GHL</b>
District 1	Oct. 21	21	98,729	70,354	50,000
District 2	Oct. 15	15	83,136	74,631	65,000
Section 3-A	Oct. 16	16	167,970	107,643	95,000
Sections 3-B/C	Oct. 29	29	44,465	33,107	30,000
District 4	Feb. 28	151	15,302	Confidential	20,000
District 5	July 31	151	11,775	Confidential	20,000
District 6	Oct. 11	11	53,110	37,323	<b>32,000<sup>a</sup></b>
District 7	Oct. 17	17	74,145	82,552	<b>63,700<sup>a</sup></b>
District 8	Oct. 21	21	17,846	12,854	15,000
District 9	Oct. 11	11	18,474	16,495	14,000
District 10	Oct. 9	9	52,168	40,321	<b>36,000</b>
District 11-Seymour	Oct. 8	8	18,714	21,970	<b>15,000<sup>b</sup></b>
District 11-Remainder	Feb. 20	143	4,786	8,327	7,500
District 12-Tenakee	n/a	0	22,244	Closed	Closed
District 12-Remainder	n/a	0	13,575	Closed	Closed
Sections 13-A/B	Feb. 28	151	13,731	14,040	15,000
Section 13-C	Oct. 4	4	34,134	29,404	26,000
District 14	Nov. 23	54	14,256	8,833	<b>Closed</b>
District 15	Jan. 7/June 21 <sup>c</sup>	151	6,057	15,768	15,000
District 16	Dec. 11	72	13,922	Confidential	<b>Closed</b>

*Notes on Table:* Bold type indicates GHL has changed from the previous season.

<sup>a</sup> The GHLs for Districts 6 and 7 may be adjusted inseason based on the results of the District 7 preseason survey and different trigger points in commercial CPUE. Adjustments to GHLs will be announced in weekly fishery updates.

<sup>b</sup> Seymour Canal had no established GHL in 2012 due to experimental SI management.

<sup>c</sup> D-15 East and West side closure dates.

The department has recently completed an annual review of available shrimp stock status information for each area with a distinct GHL and will manage the 2013/2014 season for GHLs identified in the table above. The combined regional GHL for the 2013/2014 season is **in the range of 519,000–549,000 pounds** of whole shrimp.

#### Basis of Pot Shrimp GHLs, expected season lengths, and Management Approach for 2013/2014 Season

**District 1:** The GHL for the 2013/2014 season **will remain at 50,000 pounds of spot shrimp**. West Behm Canal will be closed after three weeks of fishing (October 22, 2013) and the rest of District 1 will close on November 7, 2013, unless the GHL is reached. This closure was based initially on the 50,000 pound GHL and was set to protect West Behm Canal stocks.

In the 2006/2007 season, the GHL for spot shrimp was reduced by 40% due to declining harvest rates and increasing season length observed during the 2000/2001 through 2005/2006 seasons. The GHL was again reduced in the 2008/2009 season with a third reduction coupled with pre-set closures for the 2009/2010 season. The large area with differing habitats, a collapse of the frozen head-on shrimp market, and the limited ability for on-grounds sampling, has made population changes difficult to assess. CPUE in district 1 has decreased slightly, with a minimal increase in CPUE in West Behm Canal. Harvest went over the GHL for the 2012/13 season primarily due to successful fishing in the stronger, southern portion of District 1 and fishing in areas that had not been fished heavily in recent years. The recent 10-year average harvest is 105,881 pounds. Harvest for the 2012/2013 season was 70,354 pounds, and triggered an early closure of District 1.

The department received a legislative increment in funding for shrimp research in the region in 2011 and has implemented a new pot gear survey for this district. The survey included areas of Back Behm, West Behm, Carroll Inlet, and George Inlet and will continue this year.

**District 2:** The GHL for the 2013/2014 season **will remain at 65,000 pounds of spot shrimp.** The GHL was reduced in the 2009/2010 season by 25% from 86,000 pounds to 65,000 pounds. This reduction was due to excessive exploitation rates, declining CPUE, and a decrease in mean carapace length. Indications are that this reduction in GHL is a sustainable harvest for the district. In the past, commercial logbook data has indicated a high exploitation rate; however, there was no commercial logbook data available for the 2011/12 and the 2012/2013 seasons in the district. The department will be asking all shrimp fisherman who plan to fish in District 2 to participate in the shrimp logbook program. In the 2012/13 season, there was a decrease in the commercial CPUE in Kasaan Bay while remaining relatively stable in Moira Sound and Cholmondeley Sound; these are the three areas where a majority of the GHL is taken in the District. Fishery performance data, as always, will be closely monitored during this upcoming season. The recent 10-year average harvest is 83,201 pounds. Harvest for the 2012/2013 season was 74,631 pounds. District 2 is expected to close on or before October 20, 2013.

The department initiated a new pot gear survey in 2011 in areas of Cholmondeley Sound and Kasaan Bay which will help to monitor shrimp populations. As with District 1, this will be the third year of preseason surveys in District 2 and by year 4 the data that is obtained will be used for management in the district.

**Section 3-A:** The GHL for the 2013/2014 season **will remain at 95,000 pounds of spot shrimp.** The GHL prior to the 1999/2000 season was approximately 200,000 pounds. In 2000/2001, it was increased to 264,000 pounds. For the 2004/2005 season, consistent decreases in average shrimp size and fishery harvest rates led the department to reduce the GHL to 198,000 pounds. A further decrease in the GHL, to 158,400 pounds, was made for the 2008/2009 season. For the 2010/2011 season, a reduction of 40% lowered the GHL to 95,000 pounds.

During the four seasons with a 198,000 pound GHL, it appeared that the shrimp population in Section 3-A stabilized at a level much reduced over past years. During the following two seasons, the harvest averaged 125,000 pounds or 21% less than the 158,000 pound GHL. This unintentional reduction did not produce a positive change in biological or harvest trends prompting the reduction for the 2010/2011 season. The department is looking for stability in biological and harvest trends in this section and will keep the current GHL in place for the 2013/2014 season. The recent 10-year average harvest is 168,033 pounds. Harvest for the 2012/2013 season was 107,643 pounds. Section 3-A is expected to close on or before October 20, 2013.

**Sections 3-B/C:** The GHL for the 2013/2014 season **will remain at 30,000 pounds of spot shrimp.** In the 2007/2008 season, the GHL for spot shrimp was reduced by 20% (from 50,000 to 40,000 pounds) due to a decline in mean carapace length and CPUE. Last season a further reduction of 25% to 30,000 pounds was implemented primarily based on decreasing CPUE. The recent 10-year average harvest is 44,541

pounds. Harvest for the 2012/2013 season was 33,107 pounds. Section 3-B/C is expected to close on or before October 20, 2013.

**District 4:** The GHL for the 2013/2014 season **will remain at 20,000 pounds of spot shrimp**. No survey or sampling data has been collected. Harvest and effort have been sporadic throughout the history of the fishery and fishery performance is the only data from District 4 that can be used as an indicator of stock health. The recent 10-year average harvest is 15,302 pounds. Harvest for the 2012/2013 season was *confidential*. District 4 is expected to close on February 28, 2014 and may reopen for the summer season.

**District 5:** The GHL for 2013/2014 season **will remain at 20,000 pounds of spot shrimp**. The GHL of 20,000 pounds has been in place since 1995. District 5 typically receives little effort and has not been closed before February 28 since the 1996/1997 season. The recent 10-year average harvest is 11,775 pounds. Harvest for the 2012/2013 season was *confidential*. District 5 is expected to close on February 28, 2014 and may reopen for the summer season.

**District 6:** The GHL for the 2013/2014 season **will be adjusted inseason. The initial GHL will be 32,000 pounds of spot shrimp. Logbooks will be mandatory for catcher-processors**. The logbook procedure and the information recorded will be the same as the voluntary program. The information from the logbooks will be used inseason as one of the components for inseason management and will be used postseason for evaluating the fishery. Those catcher-processors operating in District 6 will need to provide specific shrimp size category information and will need to record catch size distribution data on daily fish tickets as specified in an information packet available at ADF&G area offices. Fishermen will not be required to report their daily size breakdowns during the weekly reporting periods but are requested to report their daily harvest in pounds of XL (or equivalent) and greater spot prawns.

For inseason management, the commercial fishery data will include daily harvest rates from catcher-processors, harvest rates of XL, or greater, shrimp from catcher processor log book data, and carapace length data derived from on the grounds sampling. The department will analyze the harvest information from the first 7 to 10 days of the fishery and compare it to prior seasons. Adjustments to the GHL will be made according to the degree above or below the current year's harvest data is to past years. Using the inseason management criteria for 2012/2013, the net increase was 20%, increasing the target GHL to 38,400 pounds. Inseason adjustments for the 2013/2014 season will not exceed 40% of the initial GHL. Additionally, the department may close the fishery before the inseason revised GHL is reached if it becomes evident that fishery performance is below historic levels for healthy stocks. The GHL for District 6 was increased to 82,000 pounds in the 2005/2006 season, but remained constant at 68,000 pounds for the 10 prior seasons; it was reduced back to 68,000 pounds for the 2008/2009 season. The recent 10-year average harvest is 53,110 pounds. Harvest for the 2012/2013 season was 37,320 pounds and closed on October 11, 2012. District 6 is expected to close by October 18, 2013.

**District 7:** The GHL for the 2013/2014 season **will be adjusted inseason. The initial GHL will be 63,700 pounds of spot shrimp. Logbooks will be mandatory for catcher-processors**. The logbook procedure and the information recorded will be the same as the voluntary program. The information from the logbooks will be used inseason as one of the components for inseason management and will be used postseason for evaluating the fishery. Those catcher-processors operating in District 7 will need to provide specific shrimp size category information and will need to record catch size distribution data on daily fish tickets as specified in an information packet available at ADF&G area offices. Fishermen will not be required to report their daily size breakdowns during the weekly reporting periods but are requested to report their daily harvest in pounds of XL (or equivalent) and greater spot prawns.

For inseason management, the department will incorporate the preliminary District 7 preseason survey results in conjunction with commercial fishery data. The commercial fishery data will include daily harvest rates from Catcher Processors, harvest rates of XL, or greater, shrimp from catcher processor log book data, and carapace length data derived from on the grounds sampling. The department will analyze

the harvest information from the first 7 to 10 days of the fishery and compare it to prior seasons. Adjustments to the GHL will be made depending on the degree above or below the current year's harvest data is to past years. Using the inseason management criteria for 2012/2013, the net increase was 27%, increasing the GHL to 80,700 pounds. Inseason adjustments for the 2013/2014 season will not exceed 40% of the base GHL. Additionally, the department may close the fishery before the inseason revised GHL is reached if it becomes evident that fishery performance is below historic levels for healthy stocks. The GHL for District 7 has ranged from 104,000 pounds in the 2000/2001 season to 54,600 pounds in 2010/2011. The recent 10-year average harvest is 74,145 pounds. Harvest for the 2012/2013 season was 82,552 pounds and closed on October 17, 2012. The 2013/2014 season is expected to close by October 25, 2013.

**District 8:** The GHL for the 2013/2014 season **will remain at 15,000 pounds of spot shrimp**. The GHL in District 8 was 20,000 pounds from 1997/1998–2009/2010 seasons; prior to that time a guideline harvest range (GHR) of 75,000–100,000 pounds was in place for Districts 6 and 8 combined. Commercial catch rates and biological parameters have been below average and have shown decreasing trends in the traditional areas. Catch rates and any available biological data inseason will be closely monitored. Action may be taken to close the district down if the stock health appears to be poor. The recent 10-year average harvest is 17,846 pounds. Harvest for the 2012/2013 season was 12,854 pounds and closed on October 21, 2012. The 2013/2014 season is expected to close by October 31, 2013.

**District 9:** The GHL for the 2013/2014 season **will remain at 14,000 pounds of spot shrimp**. The GHL in District 9 decreased from 18,000 to 14,000 pounds in the 2011/2012 season; prior to that the GHL was 18,000 since the 2000/2001 season. Fishery performance data is the only data from District 9 that can be used as an indicator of stock health. The subdistrict harvest composition in this district is highly variable. Fishery performance data indicates a rebounding stock with the average catch per pot increasing for the second season in a row. Commercial fishery CPUE increased from the prior season, but was still below the baseline for the sixth season in a row. Harvest for the 2012/2013 season was 16,495 pounds and the area closed on October 11, 2012.

**District 10:** The GHL for the 2013/2014 season **will be reduced by 25% to 36,000 pounds of spot shrimp**. The GHL in District 10 increased from 30,000 to 35,000 pounds in the 2000/2001 season and to 48,000 pounds in the 2004/2005 season. Commercial harvest information for District 10 indicates that the shrimp populations have declined sharply for the past two seasons. The recent 10-year average harvest is 52,168 pounds. Harvest for the 2012/2013 season was 40,321 pounds and closed on October 9, 2012. The 2013/2014 season is expected to close around October 8, 2013.

**District 11:** At the January 2012 Board of Fisheries meeting, District 11 was split into two GHL areas: Seymour Canal with a GHR of 0–30,000 pounds of spot shrimp, and the Remainder of District 11 with a GHR of 0–15,000 pounds of spot and coonstripe shrimp.

**District 11-Seymour Canal (11-S):** The GHL for the 2013/2014 season **will be 15,000 pounds of spot shrimp**. Initial investigations suggest use of a Canadian type spawner index (SI) for inseason management may not be appropriate for the relatively small area and fast pace of the Seymour Canal fishery. The continuing decline in CPUE and fishermen reports of a decrease in area of good shrimp concentrations suggests a decreasing population size, and a reduction in harvest is warranted. Prior to splitting Seymour Canal from the Remainder of District 11, the GHL for the entire district was 20,000 pounds. No GHL was established for Seymour Canal specifically in 2012 due to the experiment with the SI management strategy. Research recommended a 25% reduction in GHL for Seymour Canal, which, based on the previous District 11 GHL of 20,000 pounds provides a GHL of 15,000 pounds of spot shrimp, approximately the average harvest from Seymour Canal from 2001-2010. Management staff will be on the grounds monitoring the fishery and the GHL could be surpassed if inseason indicators warrant. The recent 10-year average harvest from Seymour Canal is 18,714 pounds. Harvest for the 2012/2013

season was 21,978 pounds and closed on October 8, 2012. The 2013/2014 season is expected to close around October 6, 2013.

**District 11-Remainder (11-R):** The GHL for the 2013/2014 season **will be 7,500 pounds of spot and coonstripe shrimp**. Due to declining trends in commercial CPUE and indications of serial depletion, commercial shrimping in **Section 11-A will be closed** for three years in an effort to rebuild stocks. Sections 11-B & C have little recent harvest data due to the concentration of effort in Seymour Canal in recent seasons, but the average harvest from 1995-2005 was 7,700 pounds of spot and coonstripe shrimp. Sections 11-B & C will be open in 2013 with a GHL of 7,500 pounds of spot and coonstripe shrimp to allow further exploration and assessment of the area. The harvest for the 2012/2013 season was 8,327 pounds and the season closed on February 20, 2013. With little recent harvest data available, the anticipated duration of the season is unknown.

**District 12 – Tenakee Inlet (12-T):** District 12 – Tenakee Inlet **will be closed**. The Tenakee GHL was established at 20,000 pounds in the 2001/2002 season. Based on strong biological and fishery parameters, the GHL was raised to 28,000 pounds in the 2005/2006 season. When a strong decline in fishery performance was observed in the 2008/2009 season, the GHL was reduced to 17,000 pounds and further reduced to 10,000 pounds in the 2010/2011 season. The 2010 preseason survey found significant increases in both large and small shrimp in portions of Tenakee Inlet and a two-day fishery was allowed, harvesting 14,152 pounds. The 2011 preseason survey results were the poorest on record and the commercial fishery was not opened for the 2011/2012 season. The 2012 long term stock assessment survey CPUE was the worst in its history, and the area was closed to sport and personal use harvests in the fall of 2012. The survey will continue in order to monitor the health of the population and several years of much improved results will be needed to reopen to commercial fisheries. A separate News Release about the Tenakee fishery will be issued once the pre-season survey and data analysis have been completed.

**District 12 – Remainder (12-R):** The remainder of District 12 **will be closed**. Due to continually declining fishery performance, the area will be closed for two more years and will reopen in 2015. The 12-R GHL was established at 15,000 pounds in the 2001/2002 season, and was reduced to 10,000 pounds for the 2008/2009 season due to declining fishery performance.

**Sections 13-A/B:** The GHL for the 2013/2014 season **will remain at 15,000 pounds of spot shrimp**. Crawfish and West Crawfish Inlet east of Aspid Cape, will be closed after fifteen days of fishing (through October 15, 2013). This will be the third year with a pre-set management closure in Section 13-A/B. This early closure is to prevent excessive harvest of shrimp populations in Crawfish and West Crawfish Inlets. In Section 13-A/B there is no survey and limited biological sampling. Historically, commercial fishery CPUE has shown a fairly flat pattern, however in recent seasons a slight increase has been observed. Harvest for the 2012/2013 season was 14,040 pounds and closed on February 28, 2013. The department is unable to anticipate the duration of the season in this area due to the annual variability in harvest.

**Section 13-C:** The GHL for the 2013/2014 season **will remain at 26,000 pounds of spot shrimp**. In Section 13-C, effort has varied but season length has been relatively stable. The GHL for 13-C was reduced from 42,000 pounds to 34,000 pounds for the 2007/2008 season; it was reduced further for the 2008/2009 season to 30,000 pounds; and for the 2012/2013 season the GHL was reduced to 26,000 pounds. In the more productive Hoonah Sound portion of Section 13-C, annual surveys have been conducted since 1998. Survey indicators show an increasing trend however all remain below baseline. The commercial fishery CPUE has been relatively stable for the main fishery area. Commercial fishery CPUE data is not considered a good indicator of spot shrimp stock health, except when significant declines are indicated. The 2012/2013 harvest was 29,404 pounds of spot shrimp and closed on October 4, 2012. The 2013/2014 season is expected to close by October 5, 2013.

**District 14:** District 14 **will be closed** in 2013/2014 in an effort to rebuild stocks. After being closed for three years for stock rebuilding, the commercial fishery CPUE in District 14 was lower than in the most recent years fished. The district will be closed for three more years in an effort to rebuild stocks.

**District 15:** The GHL for the 2013/2014 season **will be 15,000 pounds of coonstripe shrimp**. The 15,000 pound GHL will be managed by splitting the harvest between the eastern and western portions of the district. This split is defined by a line from the southernmost tip of Seduction Point south to Little Island Light. Both areas of the district will be managed for 7,500 pounds of coonstripe shrimp each. Commercial harvest information and biological parameters for District 15 indicate that the shrimp population is sustaining itself with this strategy. Landing and catch sampling information will be collected from this fishery and the department may close either area if needed to distribute effort and harvest. The department intends to manage the District 15 commercial shrimp fishery with a 15,000 pound guideline harvest level while distributing this harvest equally between the eastern and western portions of the district. A total of 15,768 pounds of coonstripe shrimp was harvested during the 2012/2013 season. The eastern portion of the district was closed January 7, 2013 and the remainder of the district closed on June 21, 2013, after reopening the western section of the district for a summer fishery. The 2013/2014 season is expected to close by similar dates this season.

**District 16:** District 16 **will be closed** in 2013 on its two-year rotational cycle. In response to poor fishery performance, the 20,000 pound GHL of coonstripe shrimp was reduced to 15,000 pounds including spot shrimp in the 2004/2005 season, and continued declines led to a three year closure from 2005–2008 to rebuild stocks. A rotational fishery strategy was established for the 2008/2009 season, closing the district for a year after significant harvest occurs and re-opening the following season with a GHL of 15,000 pounds of spot and coonstripe shrimp. In the 2012/2013 season, the fishery was successfully prosecuted for the third time on its two-year rotational schedule. The recent 10-year average harvest is 13,922 pounds. Harvest for the 2012/2013 season is confidential and the area closed on December 11, 2012.

#### In-season Reporting and Fish Ticket Requirements

The “2012–2015 Statewide Commercial Shrimp, Dungeness Crab, and Miscellaneous Shellfish Fishing Regulations” pamphlet is available at ADF&G area offices. Shrimp catcher-processor (including direct-marketers) and catcher-seller fishermen are advised to become familiar with the following regulation:

5 AAC 31.143. Reporting requirements for commercial shrimp vessels in Registration Area A.

- (a) Unless otherwise specified by the department, the owner or operator of a commercial shrimp vessel operating pot gear in Registration Area A shall report by telephone or in person to a local representative of the department within two business days of deploying shrimp gear and two business days after ceasing shrimp fishing in any district or portion of a district with a guideline harvest level established by the department, including the following information:
  - (1) the pounds in whole weight by species of shrimp on board the vessel taken during the fishing period in any district or portion of a district;
  - (2) other information requested by the department for the purpose of conserving or developing shrimp resources.
- (b) In addition to the reporting requirements specified in (a) of this section, the weekly reporting requirements in Registration Area A for vessels commercial shrimp fishing with pots or beam trawls are as follows:
  - (1) unless other arrangements have been made with a local representative of the department, each week the owner or operator of a shrimp pot catcher-processor vessel, or the owner or operator of a shrimp pot catcher-seller vessel, operating gear in the waters of Registration Area A shall contact, by telephone or in person, the ADF&G area office in the area where shrimp fishing

occurs, before 12:00 noon Wednesday during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m.; the following information must be provided at the time of contact:

- (A) the permit holder's name;
  - (B) the name and ADF&G license plate number of the shrimp pot vessel;
  - (C) the following information regarding ADF&G fish tickets:
    - (i) ADF&G fish ticket number of each fish ticket used since the last contact;
    - (ii) date of landing on each fish ticket;
    - (iii) district and statistical area on each fish ticket;
    - (iv) the number of pot lifts on each fish ticket;
    - (v) days that pots soaked on each fish ticket;
    - (vi) weight of spot and coonstripe shrimp per fish ticket specifying whether whole or tail weight;
  - (D) date of last delivery.
  - (E) any other information the commissioner determines is necessary for the conservation and management of the fishery.
- (c) The fish ticket requirement for commercial shrimp pot and beam trawl vessels in Registration Area A are as follows:
- (1) an owner or operator of a shrimp pot catcher-processor vessel shall complete a separate fish ticket for each day fished for each district or portion of a district with a guideline harvest level established by the department, and in which shrimp are harvested and processed on board the vessel; fish tickets must be submitted to the department within seven days of closure of a district or portion of a district with a guideline harvest level; a shrimp pot catcher-processor who has stopped fishing in a district or portion of a district with a guideline harvest level shall contact, by telephone or in person, the local ADF&G area office and report the information specified in this paragraph before fishing in a new district or portion of a district with a guideline harvest level established by the department;
- (d) The owner or operator of a catcher-seller vessel registered to take shrimp in Registration Area A shall complete an ADF&G shrimp fish ticket indicating the weight of the shrimp on board by species before any shrimp are removed from the vessel.
- (e) For the purposes of this section,
- (1) "business day" means a day other than Saturday, Sunday, or a state holiday;
  - (2) "catcher-processor" means a commercial fisherman who catches and either sells or attempts to sell processed shrimp, and does not purchase or process shrimp caught on another vessel;
  - (3) "catcher-seller" means a commercial fisherman who catches and either sells or attempts to sell unprocessed shrimp to a person not licensed to process shrimp.

#### Application of New Reporting and Fish Ticket Regulations

Part (a) applies to all commercial shrimp fishermen. The department is not planning to make "other arrangements" to this requirement to notify the department within two days of deploying gear and within two business days after ceasing fishing in a district, or portion of a district, with a GHL. The department is implementing this new requirement this season in order to more effectively track effort and harvest in the fishery.

Part (b) applies to shrimp catcher-processors (including direct-marketers) and to shrimp catcher-sellers, but not to shrimp fishermen who make deliveries to shore-based or floating processors. This requirement to report to the department specified information by noon on Wednesday of each week has been in effect for catcher-processors during recent years. The once a week call-in reporting requirements allows fishermen 2 ½ days at the start of each week to contact the local area office. Fishermen are advised that it would be most efficient to contact the office responsible for each area: Districts 1–4: Ketchikan; Districts



5–8 and 10: Petersburg or Wrangell; Districts 11, 12, and 16: Juneau; Districts 9 and 13: Sitka; and District 15: Haines.

Part (c) applies only to shrimp catcher-processors. The same requirement has been in place during past seasons. The regulatory language has been clarified, but provisions for daily fish tickets for each district, submitting fish tickets within 7 days of a closure, and contacting the department before fishing in a new district, remains the same.

The department relies on detailed information provided by means of fish tickets in order to appropriately manage the fishery. The department will need information provided in this fashion in order to make timely decisions each week regarding the status of the fishery. **Under this provision, catcher-sellers will be required to report catches weekly in District 1, District 2, Section 3-A, Sections 3-B/C, District 4, District 9, District 11-Remainder, Sections 13-A/B, and District 15.** Under the provision for “other arrangements” the department is excluding from weekly reporting **catcher-sellers** fishing in District 5, District 6, District 7, District 8, District 10, District 11-Seymour, and Section 13-C from this requirement.

Seymour Canal, Section 13-C, and District 10 are excluded from this requirement for catcher-sellers due to the expected short duration of the seasons and on-the-grounds management in these areas. Districts 5, 6, 7, and 8 are excluded from this requirement for catcher-sellers due to the relatively fewer numbers of catcher-sellers generally fishing in these districts, and since there is sufficient time to accurately manage for GHLs set for these areas. Weekly reporting requirements will begin in those districts listed above where required from Monday, October 1, through Wednesday, October 3. To facilitate reporting requirements, the department will provide reporting forms at ADF&G area offices.

To keep harvest information confidential, the department suggests that each catcher-processor reporting via radio indicate a **unique number** for their operation **at the time of registration**. The unique number is unnecessary if harvest information is reported via cell or satellite phones. Harvest information reported during radio calls inseason will be based on a percentage of their unique number. For example, if the unique number were equal to 10,000 pounds, a reported catch of 30% would equal 3,000 pounds.

#### General Fish Ticket Reporting Requirements

Fishermen, catcher-processors, and catcher-sellers selling to a processor must furnish factual information for the completion of fish tickets at the time of landing. It is important to include the statistical sub-district information (example 107-10, lower Ernest Sound) to identify where the harvest occurred. Multiple statistical sub-districts can be entered on a single fish ticket, and fishermen should account for the harvest from each sub-district. A fish ticket for each district or area that has a GHR is required [5AAC 31.143 (c)].

The shrimp fish ticket has a box in the heading to record the number of pot lifts specific to that ticket. In order to obtain accurate catch per unit effort information, the department is requiring that information concerning the number of pot lifts is recorded on each fish ticket. The daily number of pots lifted should be written on the top of the fish ticket in the effort box on these new tickets. The effort column in the body of the ticket should be left blank. For example, if 100 pots are fished twice a day, the number of pot lifts should read 200 for that day and district. All fish tickets must be imprinted with a valid Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) card and completed at the time of delivery. The department also requests that fishermen fill in the number of days actually fished (days gear was in the water) each time they pick their gear.

#### Catcher-Processor Logbook Program

In cooperation with the Southeast Alaska Pot Shrimp Task Force, the department has implemented a voluntary logbook program since the 2005/2006 season in order to obtain additional information on

shrimp catch size distribution from catcher-processors. The information generated has been shown to be useful to the department when evaluating population trends and in setting an appropriate GHL to better manage the fishery. The department encourages all catcher-processors to participate in this voluntary program this season. The Pot Shrimp Task Force has supported and encouraged the implementation of this program. Those interested in participating will need to provide specific shrimp size category information at the time of registration and will need to record catch size distribution data on daily fish tickets as specified in an information packet available at ADF&G area offices. **The catcher-processor logbook program will be mandatory for Districts 6 and 7. Fishermen will not be required to report their daily size breakdowns during the weekly reporting periods but are requested to report their daily harvest in pounds of XL (or equivalent) and greater spot prawns.**

#### Experimental Inseason Management Plan

In January of 2012, the department met with representatives of the pot shrimp industry in Petersburg. Industry expressed a desire to experiment with active inseason management. As a result of those discussions, the department implemented a variation of Canada's Spawner Index (SI) management system in the Seymour Canal portion of District 11 for the 2012 season. Additionally, the department reviewed available data for Districts 6 and 7 for the potential of inseason management. Districts 6 and 7 were chosen due to the amount of detailed historical harvest information. A large portion of the harvest in both districts is from catcher-processors. As a result, the department has a consistent time series of daily harvest information. In addition, the highest participation of the voluntary logbook program has come from participants fishing in District 7 and to a lesser extent in District 6. The department reviewed this information and developed an experimental plan for the 2012/2013 season to adjust the GHL inseason based on the current year's harvest information compared to prior years. This plan was reviewed by many of the fishermen that participate in the District 6 and 7 fisheries at a recent meeting in Wrangell. Some adjustments were made after that meeting and the plan was implemented for the 2012 season. The SI management system will again be investigated in Seymour Canal and Districts 7 and 8 in the 2013 season. However due to declining fishery indicators, research recommendations for reduced harvests in Seymour Canal, and the results from last season's SI investigations, management will not be based on the SI and will target a 15,000 pound GHL. Management staff will be on the grounds in Seymour Canal and if inseason indicators warrant, this GHL may be exceeded. The same inseason management approach used in Districts 6 and 7 will again be used for the 2013 season.

#### Closed Waters

Fishermen should be aware that some waters of Southeast Alaska are closed to the commercial harvest of shrimp. Those areas are listed in 5 AAC 31.136. CLOSED WATERS IN REGISTRATION AREA A in the 2012–2015 Statewide Commercial Shrimp, Dungeness Crab, and Miscellaneous Shellfish Fishing Regulations pamphlet.

#### Octopus Bycatch

A management plan has been adopted [5 AAC 38.150] and a commissioner's permit is no longer required to retain and sell octopus bycatch. The regulation allows for retention of octopus up to 35% of the whole weight of spot shrimp harvested and provides for a maximum harvest level of 35,000 pounds for Area A. The department will close the fishery to further retention of octopus by emergency order in the event that the maximum level is reached. All octopus sold or retained for personal use must be recorded on a fish ticket.

#### Pot Shrimp Fishing Offshore

Offshore waters are included in Districts 4, 13, and 16, the boundary lines of which are described in 5 AAC 31.105 (d), (m), and (p). The offshore area includes the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the

United States. The EEZ extends to a distance of 200 nautical miles offshore of the defined fish districts (President Proclamation 5030). Fishermen who wish to fish in offshore waters may do so only if those districts are open. Shrimp harvested in these areas will be part of existing GHs for those districts. Fishermen who wish to fish in these areas must have a Southeast Alaska commercial pot shrimp fishery CFEC permit card.

### General Information

The information contained in this news release is intended as a summary of important regulations. Participants in the Southeast Alaska shrimp pot fishery are reminded to obtain and review a copy of the 2012–2015 Statewide Commercial Shrimp, Dungeness Crab, and Miscellaneous Shellfish Fishing Regulations booklet to make sure that they are familiar with and understand all pertinent regulations.

### Fishery Contacts

For more information regarding the commercial pot shrimp fishery please contact any of the following Area Management Biologists:

Ketchikan (225-5195): Scott Walker, Justin Breese or Bo Meredith,  
Petersburg (772-3801): Troy Thynes or Kevin Clark,  
Wrangell (874-3822): Tom Kowalske,  
Sitka (747-6688): Dave Gordon or Eric Coonradt,  
Juneau (465-4250): Dave Harris or Scott Forbes,  
Haines (766-2830): Randy Bachman.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

<i>Office</i>	<i>Ketchikan</i>	<i>Petersburg</i>	<i>Wrangell</i>	<i>Sitka</i>	<i>Juneau</i>	<i>Haines</i>	<i>Yakutat</i>
<i>ADF&amp;G</i>	225-5195	772-3801	874-3822	747-6688	465-4250	766-2830	784-3255
<i>AWT</i>	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	784-3220